3. ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE PROTOCOLS

California Department of Water Resources
Advancing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
Delta Habitat Conservation & Conveyance Program

DHCCP Team

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES'

SURVEY PROTOCOL

FOR PROPERTIES TO BE ACCESSED

AS PART OF THE

ENGINEERING GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

FOR THE

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

AND/OR

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING STUDIES

FOR THE

DELTA HABITAT CONSERVATION AND CONVEYANCE PROGRAM

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is following a specific process to avoid and minimize environmental effects from the proposed activities. Conservation measures established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have been incorporated into this process pursuant to the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted on September 23, 2010. Prior to seeking access to properties for the project "Engineering Geotechnical Studies for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and/or Preliminary Engineering Studies for the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program," Environmental Scientists from DWR reviewed the California Natural Diversity Database and maps and the USFWS database to examine the potential for sensitive species and habitats to be found within or near the project area. Potential geotechnical exploration locations were chosen, in part, to avoid impacts to these resources.

Once DWR obtains the right to access properties to conduct geotechnical explorations under the project, the following protocol will be adhered to by DWR's Environmental Scientists and Cultural Resource Specialists to ensure there are no significant impacts to environmental or cultural resources.

1. Sensitive Species and Habitat
    a. An Environmental Scientist will conduct environmental field surveys at the geotechnical exploration locations as well as ingress and egress from those locations. Field surveys will be conducted 48 hours to 2 weeks (species dependent) prior to the beginning of the geotechnical activities to ensure there are no impacts to sensitive species or habitats.
    b. Environmental Scientists will determine the proper time of year to conduct geotechnical explorations based on seasonal constraints for particular sensitive species and habitats.
    c. An Environmental Scientist will be stationed near the work areas daily to act as biological monitor, to assist the geotechnical crew with environmental issues as necessary, and to conduct field surveys prior to the start of geotechnical activities. If a sensitive species is encountered during geotechnical activities, activities will cease until appropriate corrective measures have been completed or it has been determined that the species will not be harmed.
    d. If it is determined that a geotechnical exploration location has the potential to significantly impact a particular sensitive species or habitat, either before or during operations, all work will stop at that location until an appropriate plan of action has been determined. Appropriate actions may include deferring geotechnical activities temporarily and adopting additional precautions to prevent adverse effects.
    e. No vegetation clearing will be conducted during the geotechnical activities. There may be minor disturbance to vegetation during mobilization of equipment to sites.

2. Cultural Resources
   a. DWR's Cultural Resource Specialists will request record searches from the California Historical Resources Information System, Information Center and review the results to identify previously documented cultural resources in the project area and vicinity and to determine the potential for additional archaeological and/or historical resource sites that may be found within the proximity of geotechnical exploration locations.
   b. Each geotechnical exploration location will be subject to intensive field survey before geotechnical activities begin in order to avoid any potential archaeological or cultural resources. If a cultural resource is encountered, an appropriate plan of action will be determined.
   c. If there is a potential for buried archaeological deposits or if the testing will occur in proximity to a known cultural resources, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist may be necessary during geotechnical activities.
   d. Should any archaeological resources be unearthed during the course of geotechnical activities, all work will stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds until they can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and an appropriate plan of action can be determined in consultation with the State Office of Historic Preservation.
   e. Should human remains be unearthed during the course of geotechnical activities, all work will immediately stop in the vicinity of the finds until they can be verified and the requirements of Public Resource Code Section 5097.98 are met.
3. Pre-existing Site Conditions
   a. Phase 1 site assessment, which may include a records search and aerial mapping review, will be conducted to identify pre-existing site conditions on the property. This may include a property search through Assessor Parcel Maps, discussions with the Agricultural Commissioner and property owners, and a survey of the property from close proximity to the property from public roads.
4. Environmental Awareness
   a. Construction personnel will receive worker environmental awareness training prior to the start of geotechnical activities. This will include descriptions of sensitive species and habitat as well as procedures to follow in the event a sensitive resource is encountered; procedures to follow in case of a contaminant or drilling mud spill; and procedures to follow in the event an archaeological resource or human remains are encountered.